

HOPE GARDEN CHILDREN'S BALLET THEATRE AND ESSENCE STUDIOS PRESENT

FAIRY TALES IN THE PARK

Featuring
**PAQUITA
ETUDES**

With selections
from *The
Little Mermaid,
Beauty and the
Beast, Wicked,
and others!*

FREE

Performances!
Great family fun!



**MAY 17
&
MAY 18,
2025**



Essence Studios
Dance & Performing Arts

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**To all the Dancers and many
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embraces Artist Director Claire Jones
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BRAVO to ALL!

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Dear families and patrons of the arts, it is with great excitement that Essence Studios and Hope Garden Children's Ballet Theatre present "Fairy Tales in the Park, featuring Paquita Etudes," their 7th performance together. While this is Essence's 4th annual spring show, HGCBT is celebrating their 18th year of incredible work, providing the artistically underserved northwest corner of Montgomery County with access to high-quality dance performances.

I want to first acknowledge and thank all of my dedicated and compassionate instructors for training these kids in the technique and art of dance, while also passing on the importance of commitment, teamwork, self-expression, discipline, and confidence. I also want to thank the dancers for putting in so many hours of dedication and exhausting work to make this production a success. Your commitment has paid off and you all should be so proud!

There are innumerable parent volunteers to thank, who have put so much time and energy into ensuring the success of the performance and its talented dancers. But overall this show would not be possible without our tireless Board of Directors, who are always striving to expand on its mission by providing more opportunities for performers, technicians, students, and choreographers. Which, I believe, is beautifully embodied in this production. And now please sit back and relax, and enjoy the artistry and magic of fairy tales told through dance!

~ Miss Claire



A Taste of Riverworks

May 31st, 2025

17617 W Willard Rd, Poolesville, MD 20837

The **Taste of Riverworks** is a **free, outdoor festival** featuring plein air painters around the Ag Reserve, a wet paint auction of their work, live music and dance performances, art activities for adults and children alike, beer, wine, food, and ice cream! Join us at A Taste of Riverworks and play a role in developing this growing new arts center as it transforms our community and becomes a place of creativity for all!

Performances begin at 4pm with dancers from Poolesville's **Essence Studios** and **Hope Garden Children's Ballet Theater**! Other performers include Riverworks' very own **Reserve Wind Ensemble** and **Children's Choir**, and the headliner band, **The Nighthawks** - a local legendary blues and roots rock band!



For more info on the
day's events visit
riverworksart.org



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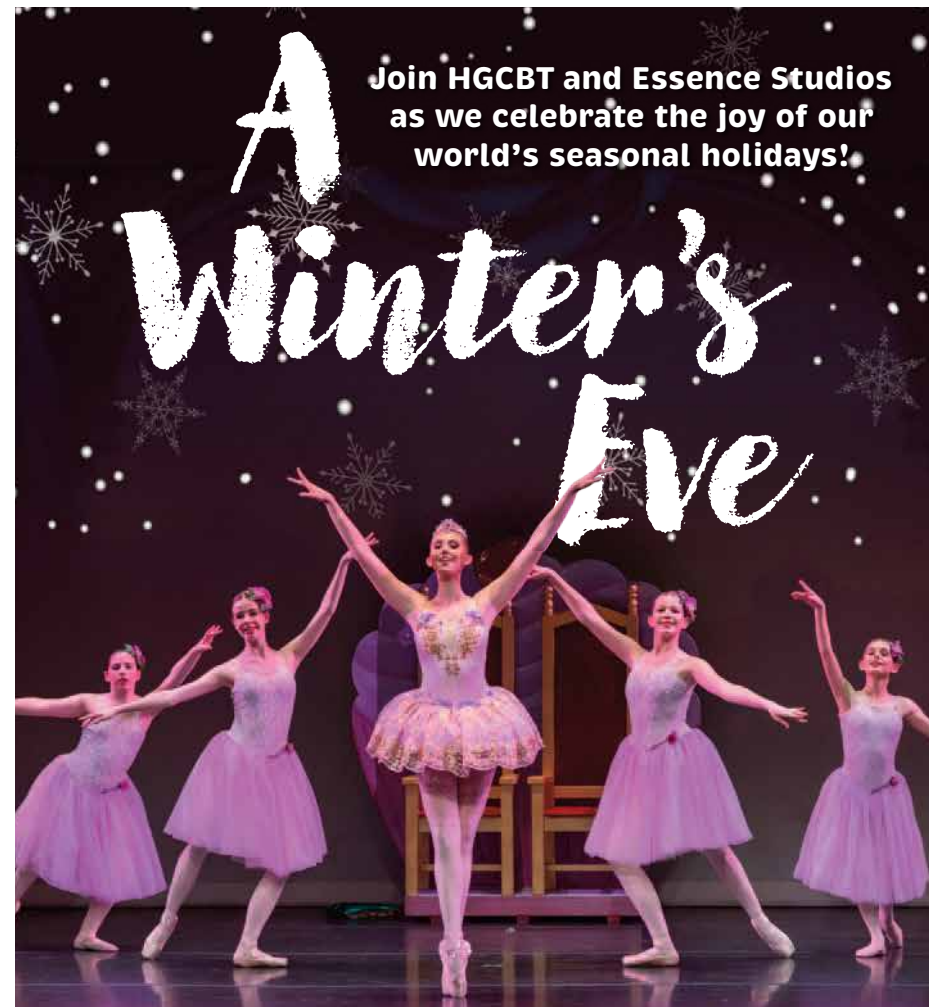


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More information at www.HopeGardenCBT.org



FAIRY TALES IN THE PARK



ACT I

SCENE 1: "INTO THE UNKNOWN" FROM DISNEY'S FROZEN

Choreographed by Claire Jones

Music: Original Motion Picture Soundtrack, Frozen 2 by Panic! at the Disco

ADVANCED CONTEMPORARY: Kate Borman, Sava Brizhik, Alarica DeLongchamp,
Gabriella Stradley, Elizabeth Tchori, Kendall Zimmerman

SCENE 2: "PART OF YOUR WORLD" FROM THE LITTLE MERMAID

Choreographed by Claire Jones

Music: Enrique Lazaro

BALLET VI/VII: Yuna Lee, Lydia Machiela, Lily Petrella, Kara Rivera

SCENE 3: "HARVEST DANCE" FROM ALADDIN

Choreographed by Lynn Schaeber

Music: Aladdin Original Motion Picture Soundtrack

BEGINNER JAZZ / CONTEMPORARY: Sophia Brodrick, Arya Cruz-Perez,
Grace Hearn, Emilia O'Callaghan, Fiona Paksima

SCENE 4: "PEASANT PAS DE DEUX, GIRLS FIRST VARIATION" FROM GISELLE

Staged by Claire Jones, Choreographed by Jean Coralli and Jules Perrot

Music: Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra & Nicolette Fraillon

BEGINNER POINTE: Yana Brizhik, Leah Santizo

SCENE 5: "LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD" FROM SLEEPING BEAUTY

Choreographed by Leigh George

Music: Sleeping Beauty, Act II, Pas de Character

BALLET I/II A: Layan Alobaid, Mackenzie Berney, Eleanor Brodrick,
Emanuelle Kim, Agatha Krupar, Valentina Krupar, Valerie Krupar, Jaelyn Nie

P R I M A S P O N S O R

Bravo to HGCBT,
Essence Studios and the
cast and crew of
Fairy Tales in the Park!
Thanks for the creativity
and joy you bring to our
wonderful town!

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Essence Studios in our shared mission of hosting
and sharing art and culture for all—while transforming
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www.riverworksart.org

SCENE 6: "HAKUNAH MATATA" FROM DISNEY'S THE LION KING

Choreographed by Ashley Kelch

*Music: Original Motion Picture Soundtrack with Nathan Lane,
Ernie Sabella, Jason Weaver, and Joseph Williams*

BEGINNER TAP II: Amira Alobaid, Cecilia Leichliter, Lauren McNally,
Lily Petrella, Cora Soderberg, Nainika Thallapalli

SCENE 7: "LITTLE FAIRIES" FROM DISNEY'S SLEEPING BEAUTY

Choreographed by Claire Jones

*Music: "Magical House Cleaning/Blue or Pink" by George Bruns,
Original Motion Picture Soundtrack*

BALLET 3: Mira Evgenieva, Alexis Newens, Wynter O'Mara,
Olivia Thompson, Layla Singh

SCENE 8: "DEFYING GRAVITY" FROM WICKED

Choreographed by Lynn Schaeber

Music: Wicked, The Soundtrack with Cynthia Erivo featuring Ariana Grande

INT. JAZZ/CONTEMPORARY: Samantha Daniels, Leeza Kolomiietz-Hor,
Morgan McNally, Kara Rivera, Emily Romero, Nora Tamashasky, Ellie Trouteaud

SCENE 9: "I'M A MEAN OLE LION" FROM THE WIZ

Choreographed by Diane Robinson

Music: Charlie Smalls, performed by Ted Ross from Original Soundtrack 1978

BEGINNER TAP I: Sophia Brodrick, Kennedy Carter, Callie Litzenberger, Kaylee Singh

SCENE 10: "BE OUR GUEST" FROM DISNEY'S BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

Choreographed by Claire Jones

Music: Plays Disney, London Pops Orchestra

TEEN BALLET II: Virginia Frost, Molly McKeon, Evalyn Newens

SCENE 11: "COLORS OF THE WIND" FROM DISNEY'S POCAHONTAS

Choreographed by Kendall Zimmerman

*Music: Pocahontas Original Disney Motion Picture Soundtrack,
Alan Menken and Steven Schwartz*

BALLET IV/V: Selma Arellano, Sophia Broughton, Nora Davidoff,
Cecelia Leichliter, Catherine Li, Francesca Mugnier, Claire Rogers

P R I N C I P A L S P O N S O R

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SCENE 12: "YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND IN ME" FROM DISNEY'S TOY STORY

Choreographed by Kendall Zimmerman

Music: Original Disney & Pixar Motion Picture Soundtrack, Randy Newman

BALLET I/II B: Alia Arellano, Violet Boren, Lucille Conley, Izzy Hull, Julia Machiela,
Charlotte Plumley, Ellie Rogers, Leyla Sampson, Amelia Scott, Mariela Scott, Ellie Shang

SCENE 13: "YOU'RE WELCOME" FROM DISNEY'S MOANA

Choreographed by Claire Jones

Music: Moana Original Motion Soundtrack, Instrumental Moana Karaoke

TEEN BALLET I: Emily Romero, Matteo Santizo, Ellie Trouteaud

SCENE 14: "WOODLAND FAIRIES" FROM A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

Choreographed by Leigh George

Music: Fortnach Visualiser, by Sebastian Plano

BALLET 8 AND INTERMEDIATE BALLET: Aria Benesh, Yana Brizhik, Morgan McNally,
Kinley Rogers, Leah Santizo, Nora Tamashasky

SCENE 15: "FAIRYTALE" FROM LITTLE VOICES

Choreographed by Ashley Kelch

Music: Sara Bareilles

ADULT TAP: Laura Dunlop, Ashley Kelch, Dana Richardson,
Isabelle Santizo, Christie Zimmerman



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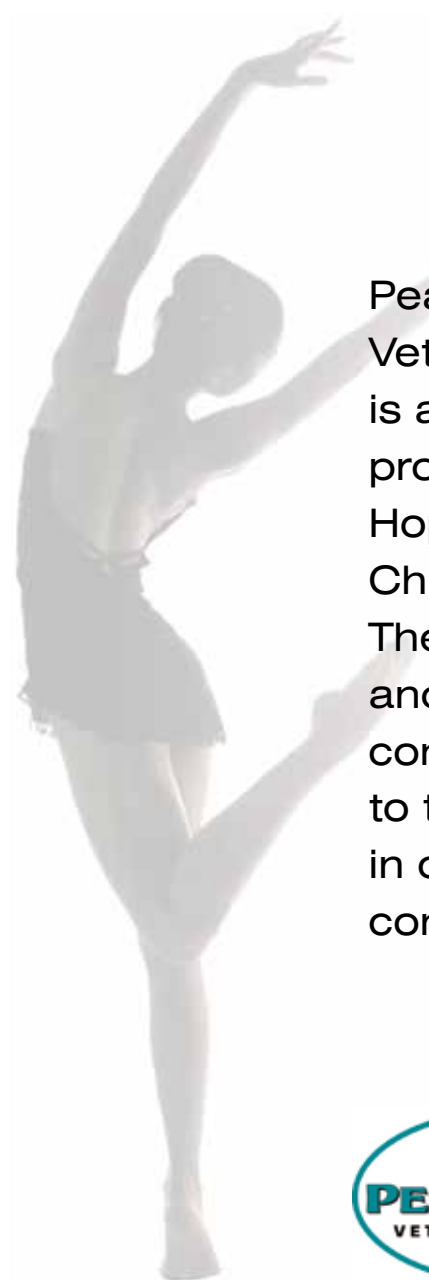
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PAQUITA ETUDES



ACT II

BACKGROUND OF PAQUITA

In Act I of Paquita, the setting introduces Paquita, a spirited young gypsy raised by a band of gypsies, and Lucien, a French officer. Their budding love story begins when Lucien becomes smitten with Paquita during a celebration. Despite the tension between their different social classes—Paquita being of humble origins and Lucien of noble birth—their affection for each other grows. The act features vibrant and energetic Spanish folk dances, showcasing both the joy and the cultural richness of the gypsy community. As the act concludes, Paquita's true identity remains a mystery, but the foundation of her love for Lucien is solidified, setting the stage for the revelations to come in later acts.

For our production, this is where we pick up the story, in Act II. We have since discovered that Paquita, initially believed to be a common gypsy, is actually of noble birth as the daughter of a Spanish count. Amidst a vibrant Spanish setting filled with joyful and exciting dances—including a grand pas de deux between Paquita and Lucien—the ballet concludes with the celebration of Paquita's newfound nobility and union with her love, Lucien. The ballet is marked by its spirited choreography and festive Spanish flair.

Choreographed by Marius Petipa

Music by Ludwig Minkus, selections performed by "Sofia National Opera Orchestra & Boris Spassov" and "Evergreen Symphony Orchestra, Kevin Galie & Anna-Marie Holmes"

STAGING: Justin Rustle, Audra Johnson, Claire Jones

REPETITEURS: Claire Jones, Austin St. John, Audra Johnson, Justin Rustle

P R I N C I P A L S P O N S O R



19639 Fisher Ave

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Poolesville Veterinary Clinic is a full-service dog and cat hospital located in Poolesville, Maryland. Drs. Peter Eeg, Ashley Young, and Marianne Van Doorn, as well as the support staff are on hand to provide the very highest quality pet care and assistance with a personal touch.

We take pride in the scope and quality of the services we provide for our clients and the pets you entrust to our care and feel that our facility is a place of healing, warmth, and goodwill.

Bravo to all the dancers and volunteers! Hard work, dedication and doing what you love, shine on!



PAQUITA

Kendall Zimmerman

THE PRINCE

Sava Brizhik

SOLOISTS

Kate Borman,
Alarica DeLongchamp,
Gabriella Stradley,
Elizabeth Tchori

PAS DE DEUX

Yana Brizhik, Leah Santizo

CORPS DE BALLET Aria Benesh, Yana Brizhik,
Morgan McNally, Kinley Rogers,
Leah Santizo, Nora Tamashasky

CONGRATULATIONS!

Several Essence Studios students auditioned into and will be attending Summer Intensives at Ballet companies across the country. The following is a list of those students, and the programs they will attend.

KATE BORMAN: Richmond Ballet

SAVA BRIZHIK: Ballet West Academy, Utah – Scholarship of 50% tuition

ALARICA DELONGCHAMP: Richmond Ballet

GABRIELLA STRADLEY: Richmond Ballet

ELIZABETH TCHORNI: Richmond Ballet

KENDALL ZIMMERMAN: Richmond Ballet – Scholarship of 10% tuition

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FAIRY TALES IN THE PARK

Featuring PAQUITA ETUDES

PRODUCTION STAFF

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, LEAD TEACHER: Claire Jones

SPECIAL REHEARSAL ASSISTANCE & SELECT CHOREOGRAPHY:
Justin Rustle, Audra Johnson, Austin St. John

REPETITEURS, ACT I: Leigh George, Claire Jones, Ashley Kelch,
Diane Robinson, Lynn Schaeber, Kendall Zimmerman

TECHNICAL DIRECTION: Julia Junghans*

PRODUCTION ASSISTANCE: Jeff Jones, Beth Fayard-Jones

STAGE MANAGEMENT: Claire Jones, Justin Rustle

LIGHTING DESIGN: Beth Fayard-Jones

COSTUME DESIGN: Claire Jones, Beth Fayard-Jones, Caryn McNally

COSTUME EXECUTION: Beth Fayard-Jones, Caryn McNally, Sue Sokoll

TECHNICAL CREW: Beth Fayard-Jones, Claire Jones, Jeff Jones,
Roland Jones*, Julia Junghans*, Michael Opiekun, Emma Pioli*,
Justin Rustle, Mario Santizo, Brian Thompson, Avery Snyder

BACKSTAGE COORDINATION: Diane Robinson, assisted by
Emma Pioli* and Sue Sokoll

CONCESSIONS: Bethanie Lee, Alison Rivera

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR EMERITUS: Fran Ichijo

*HCCBT ALUMNI



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Claire Jones

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ARTISTIC DIRECTOR & PRINCIPAL INSTRUCTOR

Claire Jones

FACULTY

INSTRUCTORS

Leigh George, Audra Johnson, Ashley Kelch,
Joyce Melamed-Berger, Diane Robinson, Justin Rustle,
Lynn Schaeber, Austin St. John, Kendall Zimmerman

OFFICE /DESK ASSISTANCE

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WHAT IS HGCBT?

HOPE GARDEN CHILDREN'S BALLET THEATRE (HGCBT) upholds the traditions and history of classical ballet while venturing into the world of contemporary ballet and other dance disciplines—educating youth on the value of the performing arts and the lifelong benefits of dance. The youth involved explore and learn elements of anatomy, musicality, teamwork, theatrics, and the technical aspects of production, coming to understand and appreciate its value in society. HGCBT hopes to build upon its solid foundation in the community by continuing to spread awareness of the beauty and culture that is deeply rooted in Classical Ballet. These young dancers seek to educate and inspire audiences throughout the Maryland and D.C. region by performing in various venues throughout the year, beyond the semi-annual performances. The goal is to grow this outreach to include hospitals, senior homes, schools, and other community events like arts festivals and celebrations.

HGCBT, a registered 501(c)(3), strives to present performances that are exciting and inspiring for both the dancers and audience. Fulfilling these goals becomes easier as our dancers build confidence while becoming more accomplished.



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YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED TO MAKE HGCBT EVENTS A SUCCESS

Your contribution to Hope Garden Children's Ballet Theatre will provide young dancers with opportunities to perform in a setting designed to maximize their growth as dancers and lovers of art. Said opportunities will also nurture their character, confidence, discipline, and self-esteem. Your tax-deductible donations will help facilitate the growth of a flourishing center of art and culture in our community: a source of beauty, commitment, effort, and wellbeing for our youth. Please consider the multiple, tax-deductible options we offer to support HGCBT.

HELP SECURE A GRANT: HGCBT is actively pursuing grants that support the arts and communities. If you are associated with an entity that might consider a grant application from HGCBT we ask that you provide us with contact information so that we can pursue that opportunity.

BE AN ANGEL: A donation of any amount is always greatly appreciated. We list our angels, when they prefer to be recognized, in the program for the performance following the donation, and on a sign in the lobby during the performances.

PURCHASE A SPONSORSHIP: Sponsorships are for two annual performances (spring and winter,) with recognition in the program and signage in the lobby, and in some cases on promotional materials. We offer four levels of sponsorship to any interested parties including businesses and families.

PURCHASE A BUSINESS MESSAGE / AD: Business, organization, or corporate messages are printed in the winter and spring concert programs. Your message can be placed in one or both of these programs.

SEND A FAMILY MESSAGE: Family Messages are run in the winter and spring concert programs. Family messages do not mention any business and typically congratulate or send messages to dancers or staff.

For information please speak to any member of the board of directors listed in this program, visit the website at WWW.HOPEGARDENCBT.ORG or email us at HOPEGARDENCBT@GMAIL.COM.

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ABOUT THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

LILLIAN ST. CLAIRE JONES is a graduate of Hope Garden Ballet Academy, with several additional years of study at Maryland Youth Ballet. She has performed multiple roles in HGCBT's annual "A Christmas Carol", as well as several spring performances. She has performed with American Ballet Theater and the Joffrey Ballet at the Kennedy Center, and danced for two years with Bowen McCauley Dance at multiple venues in the DMV.

Regionally, Miss Claire has also performed with Deep Vision Dance in Baltimore, ClancyWorks Dance Company in Washington, DC, Other Voices Theatre in Frederick, and at Olney Theatre Center. She has assistant directed, choreographed, and taught for Red Branch Theatre, Round House Theatre Education, and with Poolesville High School's Drama Department.

Whilst deeply versed in classical ballet, Miss Claire has studied tap, contemporary, modern, stage management, and lighting, earning a degree in dance with a minor in theater from the University of MD, Baltimore County. She has been teaching all age groups for 15 years at multiple studios in Columbia, Germantown, Silver Spring, and Frederick. She taught for HGCBT from the time she was 15, including summer ballet camps.

Energetic, fun, and disciplined, Miss Claire loves kids and dance, and will use that passion to take Essence Studios into the future for years to come!

CHOREOGRAPHERS

LYNN SCHAEBER

Lynn Schaeber has been developing young hearts and minds for over 20 years. Lynn has created several Early childhood Education programs in the US and Europe for children of many nationalities and abilities, integrating academic excellence and the arts. Inspiring her students to love, learn and excel through a creative arts education is her passion. In addition to teaching preschool, Lynn is a Kindergarten teacher. She holds an MFA from Temple University in Dance. She has taught, choreographed and danced professionally throughout the US and Europe. As a Specialist Professor for 15 years, Lynn focused on developing and training teachers in the arts education field. She is the mother of 4.

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JUSTIN RUSTLE

Originally from Maryland, Mr. Justin began dancing in a creative movement class at the Liz Lerman Movement Exchange with Gesel Mason, and went on to receive his formative training at Maryland Youth Ballet. Mr. Justin holds a BFA in Dance Performance from Butler University, and an MA in Performance Studies from the TISCH School of the Arts at New York University. He has previously danced with companies including Ballet Arkansas and Bowen-McCauley Dance Company, as well as appearing as a guest artist and teacher across the United States. Mr. Justin has performed work by choreographers including Nacho Duato, Paul Taylor, George Balanchine, Gerald Arpino, Harrison McEldowney, Darelle Grand Moultrie, Kiyon Gaines Ross, Lucy Bowen-McCauley, and Ilana Goldman, as well as roles across the classical repertoire. He has also been a contributing writer to the DC Dance Journalism Project. Mr. Justin currently dances with Dana Tai Soon Burgess Dance Company.

DIANE ROBINSON

Ms. Diane Robinson has been a dance teacher and choreographer for several years, with ages kindergarten through adult. Through those years she has won awards in dance and choreography. She is a graduate of the Montgomery College Dance Program and participant in their Dance Company for four seasons in both concert shows and traveling shows. Ms. Diane has also competed as an amateur ballroom dancer and has been recognized with honors across many styles. Every year brings new excitement to work with the students of Essence Dance Studios to help them realize their dance goals.

ASHLEY KELCH

Ashley joined our Essence family in October 2023. She is currently certified in LaBlast® & TRX® and was a multi-sport collegiate athlete with a strong background in Tap & Jazz. Ashley teaches a wide variety of dance from Ballroom to Line Dancing and anything in between. Dancing has always been a big part of her life and she is so excited to spread the joy & passion through movement to all. She loves spending time with her family, pets, garden, and of course dancing!

LEIGH GEORGE

Leigh is a ballet instructor and a member teacher of the Cecchetti Council of America. Previously trained under The Richmond Ballet and Alonzo King Lines Ballet, she continues her education through the Cecchetti Teachers Levels and The National Academy of Sports Medicine to provide a well-rounded approach to dance education.

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Congratulations to Artistic Director Claire Jones and the dancers and volunteers at Hope Garden Children's Ballet Theatre!

The Poolesville community is very proud
of your hard work and dazzling abilities!



Jim Brown

301.221.1988

jimbrown.sales@gmail.com

REPETITEURS

AUDRA JOHNSON

Audra Johnson, a New Jersey native, received her early training from Christine Taylor and Luba Gulyeava and went on to continue her studies at The New Jersey Ballet School, The Harid Conservatory, and The Atlanta Ballet Center for Dance Education. She spent various summers studying at The Eglevsky Ballet, School of American Ballet, Boston Ballet, and The Harid Conservatory. She has danced professionally with The Suzanne Farrell Ballet, The Washington Ballet, and American Repertory Ballet. Ms. Johnson performed several principal and soloist roles in ballets such as The Nutcracker, Kirk Peterson's Glazunov Variations, and George Balanchine's Serenade and Allegro Brilliant. Her Balanchine Repertoire includes Danse Concertantes, Gounod Symphony, Stars and Stripes, Swan Lake, Concerto Barocco, Episodes, and Divertimento from Le Baiser de la Fee. She has also been featured in Twyla Tharp's Eight Jelly Rolls, Octet, and Nine Sinatra Songs and in new works by Kirk Peterson, Harrison McEldowney, Graham Lustig, Susan Shields, Douglas Martin, Laurie Stallings, and Melissa Barak. Ms. Johnson has taught at Princeton Ballet School, North Jersey School of Dance Arts, Ballet Nova, The Washington Ballet, Maryland Youth Ballet, and Olympia Dance Center in Olympia, WA. In 2018, she taught for Suzanne Farrell at the Kennedy Center during her summer program.

AUSTIN ST. JOHN

Austin is a native of Pasadena, CA where he trained at Le Studio (now Pasadena Dance Theater) with Phillip and Charles Fuller and Cynthia Young Fuller. He was a company member of the Oakland Ballet, Sacramento Ballet, and Cleveland San Jose Ballet. He has performed works by George Balanchine, Agnes de Mille, Lew Christensen, Flemming Flindt, Bronislava Nijinska, Alonzo King, Dennis Nahat, and many others. He performed with Rudolph Nureyev in "The Overcoat" at the Edinburgh Festival. After moving to Bethesda in 1991 he danced with the Maryland Youth Ballet, Eric Hampden Dance, Bowen McCauley Dance, Dancesmith, and other local companies. He has been a teacher in the DC area since 1991 and at the Maryland Youth Ballet from 1991-2020. His responsibilities at MYB included rehearsal director, outreach leader, Gala co-coordinator, and for over 15 years, performing the role of Drosselmeyer in their annual production of The Nutcracker. He is excited to be teaching at Essence Studios.

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*"What seems so hard now will someday
be your warm-up." – Unknown*

*Kate, go crush it today. Much love,
Chat*



*Congrats to our
beautiful dancers,
Sophia & Eleanor!*

Love, Mom, Dad, Claire & Ophélie





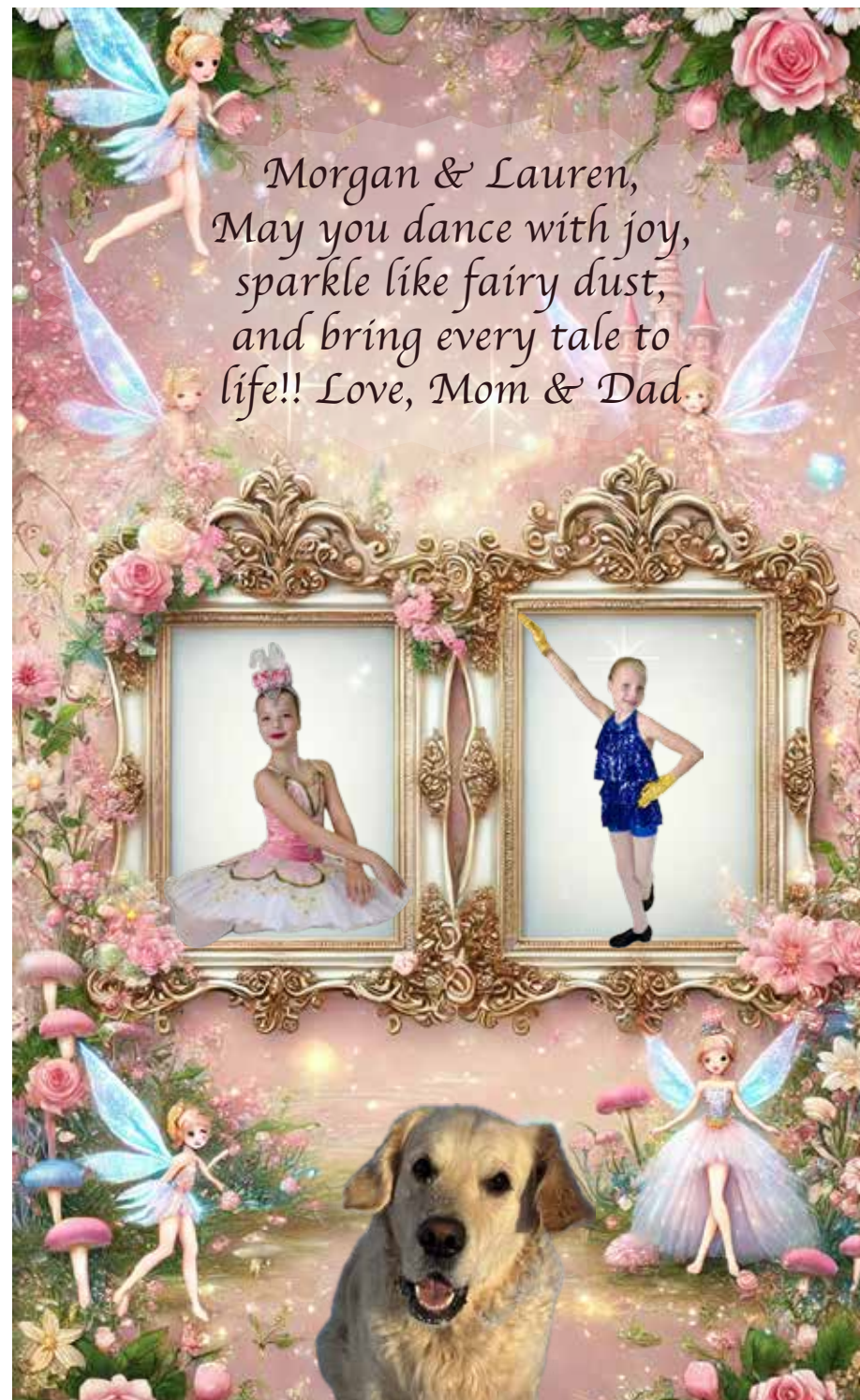
Arya,

*Congratulations on
your performance!*

*We are so incredibly
proud of everything
you've accomplished.
Keep smiling big and
shining bright - your
light is amazing!*

*We'll always be
your biggest fans.*

*Love you always,
Mamá y Papá*



*Morgan & Lauren,
May you dance with joy,
sparkle like fairy dust,
and bring every tale to
life!! Love, Mom & Dad*

"Having limits to push against is how you find out what you can do."

- Sylvie Guillem



Kinley Paige Rogers
2025

OLIVIA
LEE
THOMPSON
2025

OLIVIA



Keep on dancing and
exploring, Olivia! We love you
and are so proud of you.

XOXO

-Mom and Dad



Leah,

YOU ARE AN AMAZING YOUNG LADY. WE'RE PROUD OF HOW FAR YOU'VE COME AND EXCITED TO SEE WHERE YOU WILL GO. TOUR JETÉ YOUR HEART OUT!

LOVE YOU ALWAYS,
MOM, DAD, MATTEO AND PACO



Kendall,

Our stunning Paquita, you've come a long way since you first stepped your little ballet feet in a dance studio at age 3. We couldn't be more proud of you and it is so exciting to watch 13 years of consistent hard work culminate on stage. We love watching you dance through life and we'll always be your biggest fans.

Love always,
Mommy, Daddy, & Parker





Lucy Jean,
We are so very proud of you!
Twirl, sparkle, and let your
heart dance! We love
watching you light up the
stage. Keep dancing, keep
smiling, and keep shining
brightly! We are so excited to
see you continue your dance
journey. Always remember to
have fun. We love you to the
moon and back!

Love,
Dad, Mom, Kailey, James,
Pickles, Cocoa and Rosie



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